

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A control system comprising a control apparatus and an information processing apparatus, wherein

the control apparatus comprises

receiving means for receiving electronic program guide information transmitted from the information processing apparatus;

storage means for storing the electronic program guide information received by the receiving means;

acquisition means for, on the basis of the electronic program guide information stored in the storage means, acquiring supplemental information which is associated with a program processed by the information processing apparatus and which indicates a feature of the program;

selection means for selecting a particular program on the basis of the supplemental information acquired by the acquisition means; and

control means for controlling the information processing apparatus so as to record or play back the program selected by the selection means, and

the information processing apparatus comprises

transmission means for transmitting the electronic program guide information to the control apparatus; and

record/playback means for recording or playing back the program under the control of the control apparatus.

2. A control apparatus for controlling an information processing apparatus, comprising:

receiving means for receiving electronic program guide information transmitted from the information processing apparatus;

storage means for storing the electronic program guide information received by the receiving means;

acquisition means for, on the basis of the electronic program guide information stored in the storage means, acquiring supplemental information which is associated with a program processed by the information processing apparatus and which indicates a feature of the program;

selection means for selecting a particular program on the basis of the supplemental information acquired by the acquisition means; and

control means for controlling the information processing apparatus so as to record or play back the program selected by the selection means.

3. A control apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the acquisition means acquires, as the supplemental information associated with a program processed by the

information processing apparatus, supplemental information associated with a program recorded or played back by the information processing apparatus.

4. A control apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising management means for managing the occurrence count of each item in the supplemental information, wherein the selection means selects a program regarded by the management means as having a high occurrence count.

5. A control apparatus according to claim 4, wherein in the management of the occurrence count of each item in the supplemental information, the management means weights an occurrence count depending on a process performed by the information processing apparatus.

6. A method for a control apparatus to control an information processing apparatus, comprising the steps of:  
receiving electronic program guide information transmitted from the information processing apparatus;  
storing the electronic program guide information received in the receiving step;  
on the basis of the electronic program guide information stored in the storage step, acquiring supplemental information which is associated with a program

processed by the information processing apparatus and which indicates a feature of the program;

selecting a particular program on the basis of the supplemental information acquired in the acquisition step; and

controlling the information processing apparatus so as to record or play back the program selected in the selection step.

7. A computer-readable storage medium including a program stored thereon for use by a control apparatus to control an information processing apparatus, the program comprising a procedure of controlling a process including the steps of:

receiving electronic program guide information transmitted from the information processing apparatus;

storing the electronic program guide information received in the receiving step;

on the basis of the electronic program guide information stored in the storage step, acquiring supplemental information which is associated with a program processed by the information processing apparatus and which indicates a feature of the program;

selecting a particular program on the basis of the supplemental information acquired in the acquisition step;

and

controlling the information processing apparatus so as to record or play back the program selected in the selection step.

8. A program executed by a computer to control a control apparatus for controlling an information processing apparatus, the program comprising a procedure of controlling a process including the steps of:

receiving electronic program guide information transmitted from the information processing apparatus;

storing the electronic program guide information received in the receiving step;

on the basis of the electronic program guide information stored in the storage step, acquiring supplemental information which is associated with a program processed by the information processing apparatus and which indicates a feature of the program;

selecting a particular program on the basis of the supplemental information acquired in the acquisition step; and

controlling the information processing apparatus so as to record or play back the program selected in the selection step.

9. A control apparatus for controlling an information processing apparatus, comprising:

storage means for storing data indicating a timing of controlling the information processing apparatus to perform a particular process and data indicating the particular process to be performed, in relation to identification information;

input acceptance means for accepting input of the identification information;

control means for controlling the information processing apparatus to perform the particular process when the timing condition stored in the storage means in relation to the identification information accepted by the input acceptance means is met.

10. A control apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the timing is when a specified date/time is reached, or when a commercial break occurs, or when a specified genre of a program is broadcast.

11. A control apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the content of the process is switching of a channel, turning on/off of power, or zapping.

12. A control apparatus according to claim 9, further

comprising presentation means for presenting the timing and the content of the process stored in the storage means, when the input of the identification information is accepted by the input acceptance means,

wherein the control means controls the information processing apparatus to perform a process selected from processes presented by the presentation means when a selected timing condition is met.

13. A control apparatus according to claim 9, further comprising setting acceptance means for accepting setting of a timing and a content of the process,

wherein the storage means stores data indicating the timing and the content of the process accepted by the setting acceptance means.

14. A method for a control apparatus to control an information processing apparatus, comprising the steps of:

storing data indicating a timing of controlling the information processing apparatus to perform a particular process and data indicating the particular process to be performed, in relation to identification information;

accepting input of the identification information; and

controlling the information processing apparatus to perform the process when the timing condition indicated by

the data stored in the storage step in relation to the identification information accepted in the input acceptance step is met.

15. A computer-readable storage medium including a program stored thereon for use by a control apparatus to control an information processing apparatus, the program comprising a procedure of controlling a process including the steps of:

storing data indicating a timing of controlling the information processing apparatus to perform a particular process and data indicating the particular process to be performed, in relation to identification information;

accepting input of the identification information; and

controlling the information processing apparatus to perform the process when the timing condition indicated by the data stored in the storage step in relation to the identification information accepted in the input acceptance step is met.

16. A program executed by a computer to control a control apparatus for controlling an information processing apparatus, the program comprising a procedure of controlling a process including the steps of:

storing data indicating a timing of controlling the



information processing apparatus to perform a particular process and data indicating the particular process to be performed, in relation to identification information;

accepting input of the identification information; and

controlling the information processing apparatus to perform the process when the timing condition indicated by the data stored in the storage step in relation to the identification information accepted in the input acceptance step is met.

17. A control apparatus for controlling an information processing apparatus, comprising:

storage means for storing operation history indicating an operation performed by controlling the information processing apparatus at a particular timing;

presentation means for presenting information to a user to prompt a user to select whether the same process as the process described in the operation history stored in the storage means is performed by the information processing apparatus when the timing condition described in the operation history is met; and

control means for, in the case in which the process is selected to be performed on the basis of the information presented by the presentation means, controlling the information processing apparatus to perform the process.

18. A control apparatus according to claim 17, wherein the operation history is history of viewing programs or history of recording programs.

19. A control apparatus according to claim 17, wherein the storage means stores the operation history in relation to identification information;

the control apparatus further comprises input acceptance means for accepting input of the identification information; and

the presentation means presents the information when the timing condition, described in the operation history stored in relation to the identification information accepted by the input acceptance means, is met.

20. A control apparatus according to claim 17, wherein when an operation history registration mode is selected, the storage means stores, as the operation history, data indicating a process performed by the information processing apparatus and a timing of the process.

21. A method for a control apparatus to control an information processing apparatus, comprising the steps of:  
storing operation history indicating an operation

performed by controlling the information processing apparatus at a particular timing;

presenting information to a user to prompt a user to select whether the same process as the process described in the operation history stored in the storage step is performed by the information processing apparatus when the timing condition described in the operation history is met; and

in the case in which the process is selected to be performed on the basis of the information presented in the presentation step, controlling the information processing apparatus to perform the process.

22. A computer-readable storage medium including a program stored thereon for use by a control apparatus to control an information processing apparatus, the program comprising a procedure of controlling a process including the steps of:

storing operation history indicating an operation performed by controlling the information processing apparatus at a particular timing;

presenting information to a user to prompt a user to select whether the same process as the process described in the operation history stored in the storage step is performed by the information processing apparatus when the

timing condition described in the operation history is met;  
and

in the case in which the process is selected to be performed on the basis of the information presented in the presentation step, controlling the information processing apparatus to perform the process.

23. A program executed by a computer to control a control apparatus for controlling an information processing apparatus, the program comprising a procedure of controlling a process including the steps of:

storing operation history indicating an operation performed by controlling the information processing apparatus at a particular timing;

presenting information to a user to prompt a user to select whether the same process as the process described in the operation history stored in the storage step is performed by the information processing apparatus when the timing condition described in the operation history is met;  
and

in the case in which the process is selected to be performed on the basis of the information presented in the presentation step, controlling the information processing apparatus to perform the process.